

YUGOSLAVIA: Slovene Crisis Calming for Now

Serbian strongman Milosevic and other advocates of drastic action to overturn the Slovene constitutional amendments allowing secession and limiting federal powers have suffered a setback. Yugoslav leaders ordered a court review of the amendments, and numerous officials—including senior military officers—have pledged not to use force to reverse them. The State Presidency on Friday also criticized Milosevic's charges that the amendments are "counterrevolutionary" and demanded an end to demonstrations against them in pro-Milosevic Serbia, Vojvodina, and Montenegro. Midlevel Slovene leaders have said the republic will reject any federal court ruling against the amendments.

The constitutional crisis could drag on for months, further distracting attention from needed national political and economic reforms. It may also weaken Milosevic politically: his hard line is likely to provoke political infighting between pro- and anti-Milosevic forces that could cost him the slim support he now has in Macedonia and Bosnia. Such losses would erode his position at the national party congress scheduled for January.